Permanent seat in Security Council

2667. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that France and Armenia have for the first time strongly come out with open and firm suport for a permanent seat for India in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC);

(b) if so, the latest prospects for India to get a seat in the council; and

(c) whether any piecemeal expansion of the Council has also been rejected by these two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) During the debate in the UN General Assembly on reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council, France and Armenia made statements supporting the candidature of India for permanent membership in an expanded Security Council. On October 31, 2001, the Permanent Representaive of France stated : "France envisaged the expansion of the UN Security Cuncil to include two developed industrialised countries and three developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America and Caribbean. France considered that Germay, Japan and India should occupy a permanent seat in the UN Security Council". On 31st October, 2001 the Armenian representative stated : "The issue of global geographic representation is of particular importance for us. We support the proposals to increase the regional representation, especially for the regions which are currently under represented such as Asia, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean. In this regard we believe that India deserves to be seriously considered as a candidate for permanent membership." Subsequently, while addressing the UN General Assembly on November 14, 2001, the Foreign Minister of Armenia, Mr. Vartan Oskanian, reaffirmed Armenia's support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

(b) There is growing support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. The issue of the reform and the restructuring of the UN Security Council has been under discussion at the United Nations, for several years. The UN Charter stipulates that any change in the existing structure must be approved by two-thirds of the General Assembly including all Permanent Members of the Security Council. However, there is no consensus so far on some issues involved such as size of the expanded Council, the criteria for selection of new Permanent Members, the question of veto etc.

(c) Yes, Sir. They do not favour piecemeal expansion of the Council.